MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : I study the question.

PRESIDENT : You are the technical adviser to Government Is that the answer?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : Yes, Sir.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*) : May I know from the member when the recent tariff value on cocoanuts was fixed by Government?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : It came into operation from the 1st of January 1934.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*) : When was it decided?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : Just before that.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN (*Nominated*) : May I know whether there is any reason to change the tariff value?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : It is revised every year in accordance with the variations in the market value.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : May I know from the member whether there is any correspondence between the Travancore Government and the Government of India on the reduction of tariff?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : I have already answered that. I am not in possession of the information. I claim notice.

MR. E V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : May I know from the member who thinks himself to be the expert adviser to Government in these matters what time he will take to study to know whether Ceylon has entered into the Ottawa agreement?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : I may inform the member that, so far as I know, Ceylon is not a party to the Ottawa agreement.

Supply of Bombay Salt.

318. ***MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI** (*Changanachery I*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) how many tenders were received by Government for the supply of Bombay salt ;

(*b*) how many of them were from Travancore ;

(*c*) to whom the contract has been given ;

(*d*) whether he is a Travancorean ;

(*e*) whether the Excise Commissioner objected to the contract being given to him ; and

(*f*) what were his reasons?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) :. (*a*) Four.

(*b*) None.

(*c*) Messrs Khan Bahadur H. M. D. H. Bhiwandivala & Co., Bombay.

(*d*) In view of answer to part (*b*), this does not arise.

(*e*) No.

(*f*) In view of answer to part (*e*), this question does not arise.

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MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanachery I*): May I know from the member whether at any time it was brought to the notice of the Commissioner that the salt supplied by the contractors is bad in quality?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes; lately when I was at Parur, a deputation waited upon me and complained that the salt supplied was partly inferior in quality.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanachery I*): Did the officer make any enquiries?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): The very next day I went to Munambam. Some of the members who waited upon me on deputation were also present. I heard both the parties and went thoroughly into the question.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanachery I*): May I know what was the result of the enquiry?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): All the salt supplied was not inferior. A portion of the salt supplied by the contractor was found to be inferior. That was not taken delivery of and was rejected.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanachery I*): So, am I to understand that bad salts are also supplied by the contractors?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): It may sometimes happen that some portion of the salt supplied by the contractor is inferior. That is never taken delivery of. It is rejected and duty thereon is realised by Government from the contractor.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanachery I*): May I know from the member whether he has brought that to the notice of Government?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Salt is rejected and duty realised only after obtaining the orders of Government.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know from the member whether this contractor was found fault with by Government last year also?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): It is not a question of finding fault with anybody. If any quantity of salt is found to be inferior, that will be rejected and the duty thereon will be realised by Government. Last year, nearly 320 maunds of salt was rejected at Munambam. They were rejected and the duty thereon was realised by Government from the contractor.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know from the member whether tenders were called twice this year?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*): May I know the special reasons for calling the tender twice this year?

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MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): When the tender was called for the first time, the rates quoted were very high. For the last year it was Rs. 58 and odd. This year——

PRESIDENT: The member does not want all those details.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): The tenderer offered to quote lower rates if the contract is given to him for two years.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanachery I*): May I know from the member whether, at any time before this tender was called for, a tender was called for two years?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): No.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanachery I*): May I know from the member whether there was any complaint from persons, who had submitted their tender originally, that they did not receive notice of the second tender?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): No such complaint.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanachery I*): May I know from the member whether any earnest money was retained at the time when the second notice was called for?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes, that was done for the convenience of the tenderers.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether there was any compulsion to admit any particular tender?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): No.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether the choice is left to the officer concerned to accept or refuse any particular tender?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Of course, in the tender notice itself there is such a provision.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether there was any special reason for giving perference to a particular tenderer?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): He quoted the lowest rate for the best salt.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know whether a higher rate was offered before than in last year?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): The rates are different for each year.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know whether previous to last year, any tender was rejected for higher rate?

PRESIDENT: That goes into the history of the Department. You cannot ask that supplementary question. Supplementary questions should be asked only for the purpose of eliciting such information as from the reply itself does not appear to be quite clear, or to elicit such information which may relate to it. To ask whether, since the starting of the Department, a tender was rejected is expecting the member to go into the details of the Department. To say that it was in the year 1913 that the higher tender was received, etc., is not within the scope of a supplementary question.

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